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Abram E. Cutler



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**City of Charlestown.**

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**FEBRUARY, 1849.**

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**CHARLESTOWN:**  
**WILLIAM W. WHEILDON, PRINTER.**

**1849.**

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# REPORT.

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THE time has again arrived, when our citizens are accustomed to look to those intrusted with the educational interests of our city, for a statement of the condition of our Public Schools, and what provisions have been made to secure to the children of all classes in our midst, the means of efficient and thorough instruction in all the branches of knowledge usually pursued in these institutions.

At the commencement of the present municipal year, some of our schools were, and had for some time been, subjected to inconvenience and embarrassment, from a want of suitable school accommodations; occasioned by the action of the city government relative to school houses.

On the 14th of June, 1847, an order was passed in both branches of the city government, in favor of a petition made to the Mayor and Aldermen, for the erection of a new Grammar School house in Ward 2.

On the 21st of the same month, an order passed the Common Council, which was also passed in the other branch of the city government, for the removal of the school houses and other buildings from the Trainingfield; and on the 9th of August, 1847, an order passed the common council, which was also concurred in by board of aldermen, for the re-building of the Harvard School house. These measures were carried into effect by the appropriate committees from the city government, and consequently the scholars of the Harvard and Winthrop schools, were deprived of the use of their school-rooms until the new buildings were completed.

The new school house in Ward 2, which was to supply the place of the Winthrop School house, removed from the Training-field, was first occupied by the scholars on the 27th day of March, 1848, and the Harvard School house was occupied on the 29th of the same month; — the Winthrop contains seats and desks for 364 scholars, and the Harvard for 432.

The joint standing committee on public instruction from the city government, by whom the above improvements were carried out, recommended to the city council the adoption of an order for the erection of a building, and the establishing of a High School for boys and girls; which order was passed on the 12th of July, 1847, and an appropriation was made to defray the necessary expense of the same, which sum was placed at the disposal of the above committee.

On the 6th of June, 1848, a vote was passed by the joint standing committee on public instruction, directing their clerk to inform the school committee, that they should “deliver over into the charge of the school committee, the High School building, on Saturday, the 17th of June instant.” On the receipt of this notice, the school committee made arrangements for publicly receiving and acknowledging this new trust, and dedicating it to the purposes for which it had been created.

The day selected for this service, was one prominent not only in the annals of Charlestown, but also in the history of our nation's freedom and prosperity. It was a fit time from which to date the establishment of another of those institutions which are the pride and glory of New England, (her public free schools,) and one, too, dedicated to the culture of the higher branches of knowledge and science, — free alike to the children of every class of citizens in our community.

The large number of persons who were present to participate in the exercises on this occasion, was a mark of the warm and general interest felt by our citizens, in welcoming to their midst, an institution promising so much for the advancement of science, literature, and useful knowledge, among the youth of our city.

Under the date of January 3d, 1849, the School Committee received a communication from the clerk of the common council, transmitting, under a vote of that branch of the city government, information relative to the cost of erecting and furnishing the Winthrop, Harvard, and High School buildings, under the direc-

tion and superintendence of the joint standing committee of the city council on public instruction, for the year 1847.

By this communication, it appears that the

Cost of the Winthrop School House, with Ward-				
room, &c. in the basement, was	-	-	-	\$ 21,040.88
For re-building the Harvard School House, with				
Engine House in the basement,	-	-	-	\$ 12,949.26
For the High School building,	-	-	-	\$ 25,393.81

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### Examinations of Scholars for the High School.

Previous to the completion of the High School building, notice was given in each of the Grammar Schools, and in the public journals, that on the 19th day of May, there would be an examination of all applicants for admission to the High School, when 146 candidates presented themselves and were examined; 62 of this number were boys, and 84 were girls. None were to be received for examination who were under 13 years of age; this being the age fixed upon, at that time, by a vote of the School Committee, as requisite to entitle any applicant to a certificate of admission for the examination. The questions submitted to the scholars, were all printed upon sheets of paper, and were in American History, in Grammar, in Geography, and in Arithmetic, — in all forty-eight; some of these, however, were compound questions, requiring more than one answer, which made the answers required to the whole series, *seventy*.

The names of those answering any particular series of these questions were not known to the Committee, as each applicant was furnished with a card containing a number, which number was affixed to each sheet when answered, with the addition of the letter B. or G. to designate the sex by which the number was held.

After the result was made up, a list of the successful numbers was sent to each of the Grammar Schools, where they were announced by the teachers, in order that those holding them might be registered for admission to the High School.

The following is the result of the First Examination of Applicants from the different Schools.

	From each School.	Whole No. in the School.	No. under the Principal Teach.	Applicants.			Successful.			Unsuccessful.		
				Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
Bunker Hill School, No. 1,—B. F. Tweed, Teacher..	19	126	45	5	14	19	4	11	15	1	3	4
Warren School, No. 1,—C. S. Pennell, Teacher.....	20	173	39	9	11	20	6	8	14	3	3	6
Warren School, No. 2,—J. T. Swan, Teacher ....	10	183	42	4	6	10	2	5	7	2	1	3
Winthrop School, No. 1,—L. W. Anderson, Teacher	15	184	42	7	8	15	4	4	8	3	4	7
Winthrop School, No. 2—W. S. Williams, Teacher	21	185	42	10	11	21	10	3	13	0	8	8
Harvard School, No. 1,—S. Baxter, Teacher.....	18	179	32	9	9	18	5	4	9	4	5	9
Harvard School, No. 2,—J. P. Averill, Teacher.....	29	227	57	13	16	29	6	8	14	7	8	15
Applicants not connected with any Public School in this City.....	132	1257	299	..	..	132	..	..	80	..	..	52
	14	..	..	5	9	14	3	7	10	2	2	4
TOTAL.....	146	..	..	..	..	146	..	..	90	..	..	56

It will be seen by the above result, that there were 90 of the applicants who passed a successful examination, but it was subsequently ascertained, that two of the successful numbers were held by scholars who were not 13 years of age ; consequently, a certificate of admission to the High School could not be allowed them, without violating the rule which the Committee had adopted, and from which they did not think it prudent to depart.

These were both girls, which reduced the number who were admitted to the High School on the 19th day of June last, (the day on which this school was organized) to 88, of whom 40 were boys and 48 were girls.

8 Boys and 0 Girls answered from 38 to 41 questions correctly.

9	"	17	"	"	41	"	45	"	"
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

9	"	9	"	"	45	"	50	"	"
---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

5	"	16	"	"	50	"	55	"	"
---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

4	"	5	"	"	55	"	60	"	"
---	---	---	---	---	----	---	----	---	---

5	"	1	"	"	60 questions and upwards.				
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The largest number of correct answers which were given by any one scholar, was 67, and these were by a boy who held No. 101 ; the next was 66, and were by a boy who held No. 1.

By the present rules and regulations of this board for the government of our public schools, the age required for the admission of boys to an examination for the High School, is 12 years, and of girls 13 years.

The second examination of scholars for promotion to the High School, was held on the 27th day of January, 1849, at which time 110 presented themselves as candidates, 42 of whom were boys and 68 were girls.

The mode of conducting this examination was the same as that adopted at the previous one, and the number of questions submitted was forty ; these were in American History, in Grammar, in Geography, and in Arithmetic.

Of the 110 who were examined at this time, 52 were successful, 25 of whom were boys, and 27 were girls.

4 Boys and 0 Girls answered 24 questions correctly.

3	"	0	"	"	25	"	"
---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

3	"	0	"	"	26	"	"
---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

4	"	4	"	"	27	"	"
---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

2	"	3	"	"	28	"	"
---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

1	"	5	"	"	29	"	"
---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---

5 Boys and 10 Girls answered from 29 to 32 questions correctly.

3 " 2 " " " 32 " 35 " "

3 " " " 35 " 38 " "

The highest number of correct answers (38), were given by No. 39; the next highest (36), by Nos. 20 and 38.

**The following is the result of the Second Examination of Applicants from different Schools.**

	From each School.	Whole No. in School.	No. under the P. Teacher.	Applicants.			Successful.			Unsuccessful.		
				Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
Bunker Hill School, No. 1.. P. C. Knapp, Teacher..	30	139	54	9	21	30	4	14	18	5	7	12
Warren No. 1.. C. S. Pennell, "	3	165	34	3	0	3	2	0	2	1	0	1
Warren No. 2.. J. T. Swan, "	10	186	32	4	6	10	3	3	6	1	3	4
Winthrop No. 1.. L. W. Anderson, "	9	186	56	6	3	9	5	0	5	1	3	4
Winthrop No. 2.. W. S. Williams, "	13	171	42	0	13	13	0	4	4	0	9	9
Harvard No. 1.. S. Baxter, "	19	185	39	10	9	19	7	4	11	3	5	8
Harvard No. 2.. J. P. Averill, "	19	209	51	8	11	19	3	1	4	5	10	15
Applicants not connected with any Public School in this City.	103	1241	308	..	..	..	..	..	60	..	..	53
TOTAL.....	7	..	..	2	5	103	1	1	2	1	4	5
	110	..	..	..	..	110	..	..	52	..	..	68

In addition to the 52 in the above table, who were successful at this examination, there are to be added, the two girls who answered the required number of questions correctly in May last, but who were at that time disqualified for admission to the High School on account of age, which disqualification is now removed, and they have been admitted ; making the whole number admitted at this time, *fifty-four*.

These will enter the school on the 1st Monday of February, current, and with the 71 who are now members of the school, will increase its number to 125, — which is as many as can be accommodated in the room now occupied.

### HIGH SCHOOL.

THIS school, as herein before stated, was organized on the 19th day of June last, at which time 86 of the successful candidates availed themselves of its privileges.

The course of study commenced was a “thorough review by the whole school, of Arithmetic, Grammar, and Geography, this last study being pursued in connection with History and the drawing of Maps.”

In addition to this, the study of “Algebra and Ancient and Modern History, have been pursued by the whole school,” and after a full explanation of what would be expected in the department of Latin, all who wished it were permitted to commence this study, when 70 of the number in school availed themselves of the opportunity of pursuing it.

In addition to reading, the scholars have had “frequent exercises in composition upon subjects connected with, or suggested by their studies, which composition served likewise as lessons in writing, punctuation, &c.”

Declamation has been attended to by the boys.

At the close of the vacation at Thanksgiving time, in November last, it was found advisable to class the scholars with reference to their proficiency ; which arrangement gave a new stimulus to the whole school.

At this time, exercises in “Book-keeping were introduced ; all the girls receiving lessons in single entry, and the boys who desired it were taught in double entry ; — about twenty availed themselves of this privilege.”

The instruction given by the teachers in this school, is, in the

opinion of your committee, thorough and systematic. Nothing appears to have been hurried over, nor has any difficulty been left unexplained. The endeavor has been, to make each scholar master of every lesson, and generally with good success. "Very few scholars have been found, who have not appreciated the privileges of this school, and most of them have devoted themselves to their studies, and accomplished all that your committee could reasonably desire."

The teachers connected with this school are competent, devoted, faithful, and ardently engaged in their calling; and your committee would recommend them and the High School, to the confidence and patronage of the citizens of Charlestown.

"A good foundation has now been laid in this school, and during the present and succeeding years, studies will be pursued more peculiarly belonging to a High School. The study of Rhetoric, Geometry, Physiology, and French, has been commenced, and will be pursued this term. These will in time give place to other studies, necessary for a thorough preparation for college, or for the various duties of active life."

If this school continues under the present organization, your committee believe that it will, as its plan is more fully developed, compare favorably with the best schools of its class, — public or private, in this vicinity or elsewhere, and commend itself to the highest confidence and the cheerful support of all classes in our community.

Teachers in the High and Grammar schools the past year, and the amount of salary paid to each.

*High School.*

Caleb Emery	\$1,312 50	
William C. Bradlee	665 00	
Rebecca T. Duncan	206 25	
	<hr/>	2,183 75

*Bunker-Hill School, No. 1.*

Benjamin F. Tweed	750 00	
Philip C. Knapp	202 76	
	<hr/>	952 76
Amount carried forward	952 76	<hr/> 2,183 75



	Amounts brought forward	952 76	2,183 75
Robert Swan	487 30		
David Atwood	142 08		
	<hr/>	629 38	
Martha A. Chandler		250 00	
		<hr/>	1,832 14

*Bunker-Hill School, No. 2.*

Lydia A. Hanson	19 21		
M. Louise Putnam	230 79		
	<hr/>	250 00	
Mary A. Stover		250 00	
		<hr/>	500 00

*Warren School, No. 1.*

Calvin S. Pennell		1,000 00	
Thomas Metcalf		621 14	
Frances H. Clarke	37 10		
A. J. Davis	3 60		
M. Louise Burroughs	206 13		
	<hr/>	246 83	
M. M. Hayes		250 00	
		<hr/>	2,117 97

*Warren School, No. 2.*

Joseph T. Swan,		1,000 00	
William S. Reynolds		621 14	
Mary J. Chandler		250 00	
Sarah T. Chandler		250 00	
		<hr/>	2,121 14

*Winthrop School, No. 1.*

William C. Bradlee	335 00		
Luther W. Anderson	655 85		
	<hr/>	990 85	
Luther W. Anderson	187 25		
Charles F. Latham	460 81		
	<hr/>	648 06	
A. M. Bradley		250 00	
Rebecca T. Ames		250 00	
		<hr/>	2,138 91

Amount carried forward		<hr/>	10,893 91
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Amount brought forward 10,893 91

*Winthrop School, No. 2.*

Robert Swan	96 13	
William S. Williams	906 53	
	<hr/>	1,002 66
Samuel S. Wilson		648 06
M. L. Rowland		7 93
Frances T. Holland	10 41	
A. A. Moulton	219 79	
	<hr/>	230 20
Maria L. Thompson	62 50	
Lucy F. Hall	187 50	
	<hr/>	250 00
		<hr/>
		2,138 85

*Harvard School, No. 1.*

Stacy Baxter		1,000 00
William H. Ladd		630 74
A. E. Hinckley		250 00
E. A. Flint	125 00	
S. F. Kittredge	106 96	
	<hr/>	231 96
		<hr/>
		2,112 70

*Harvard School, No. 2.*

Paul H. Sweetser	98 90	
J. P. Averill	922 75	
	<hr/>	1,021 65
John S. Osgood		607 68
Rebecca Drake		250 00
Mary J. Whiting	41 67	
Adeline M. West	204 00	
	<hr/>	245 67
		<hr/>
		2,125 00
		<hr/>
Total		\$17,270 46

The salary of each Primary school teacher is \$ 250 per annum, and the amount of salary paid to this class of teachers the past year, has been \$ 6,266 84.

# Number of Scholars, Attendance, Studies, &c. in the High and Grammar Schools.

SCHOOLS.	No. of Scholars.	Average Atten.	Present at Examination.	Reading.	Orthography.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Composition.	Declamation.	History.	Algebra.	Book-keeping.	Latin.	Map and other Drawing.	No. of Vols. in the Library.
High School.....	71	73	68	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	40	71	71	64	70	71	..
Bunker Hill..No. 1.	139	101	115	139	139	139	139	88	135	52	30	37	..	..	..	44	400
" ..No. 2.	99	73	73	99	99	99	99	..	99	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	..
Warren ....No. 1.	165	138	138	165	165	165	165	66	165	34	20	6	..	..	..	72	375
" ..No. 2.	186	133	158	186	186	186	186	77	186	28	..	18	..	..	..	100	..
Winthrop ..No. 1.	187	146	164	187	137	187	187	91	187	38	8	10	..	..	..	84	315
" ..No. 2.	171	141	150	171	171	151	171	105	171	49	52	23	..	..	..	171	..
Harvard ....No. 1.	182	164	176	182	182	182	182	93	182	93	22	20	..	..	..	172	..
" ..No. 2.	211	168	192	211	211	211	211	108	189	113	16	28	..	2	..	91	..

## SUB-COMMITTEES:

### HIGH SCHOOL.

George A. Parker.  
George P. Sanger.

### BUNKER HILL SCHOOLS.

Joseph F. Tufts.  
Lemuel Gulliver.

### WARREN SCHOOLS.

James Adams.  
N. Y. Culbertson.

### WINTHROP SCHOOLS.

Edward Thorndike.  
James Miskelly.

### HARVARD SCHOOLS.

Seth J. Thomas.  
Charles W. Moore.

HENRY K. FROTHINGHAM, Ex-officio Member of each Sub-Committee.

The following table presents the number, and other statistics relating to our schools, at the close of the examinations on the 31st of January, 1849.

Rank of School.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers and Assistants.	Salaries.	Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Average Absence.
High School .....	1	3	2,183,75	71	73	Absences are very rare in this School. 276 451
Grammar Schools ....	8	29	15,086,71	1340	1064	
Primary Schools.....	25	25	6,266,84	1656	1205	

It is computed that the number of children in this city between the ages of 4 and 16 years, is 3,675.

It appears by the records kept by the several teachers, that the members of the School Committee have visited the High and Grammar schools 480 times, and the Primary schools 529 times, during the past year.

We give below the number who have been members of the Grammar schools during the past year, together with the percentage of absence in each school.

SCHOOLS.	Whole No. of Scholars during the Year.	Whole No. of Scholars at the close of the Year.	Average daily attendance during the Year.	Per centage of absences for the year 1848—9.
Bunker Hill, No. 1.	172	139	104	16½
„ „ 2.	174	99	76	23
Warren,..... 1.	298	165	141	21
„ „ 2.	298	186	139	21½
Winthrop, .... 1.	289	187	145	20
„ „ 2.	261	171	141	19
Harvard,..... 1.	253	182	153	16½
„ „ 2.	293	211	162	18

We deem it our duty to make a passing remark relative to absences and lateness in our Grammar schools. It will be seen by the above table, that this evil prevails more in some schools than in others; but in any school, however rarely it occurs, it is prejudicial to the pupil and the school. Sickness must, of course, always be a sufficient excuse, and so also necessary detention

by the parent. Parents who look well to the best interest of their children will exert themselves to break up the practice of detaining them from school for trifling purposes, and also that of allowing them, during school hours, to attend to duties for the family which may be just as well done in the intervals of school. No parent can feel that he has a right to interfere with the progress of the children of others, by detaining his child upon slight grounds from the exercises of the school, as all such detentions interrupt and embarrass the progress of the division of which the absentee may be a member.

Such instances are evils which call loudly for reform, and we cannot but appeal to all parents, to do whatever lies in their power to correct this fault, both for the good of their own children and for the general welfare of our schools.

We give below, a table which presents the number of children in the High and each of the Grammar schools at the close of the examinations on the 31st of January, 1849; together with the number who were promoted from them to the High School, and also the number of scholars in the High and Grammar schools, after the accessions were made to them on the first Monday in February; the time at which scholars are sent up from the Primary schools, and also from the Grammar schools.

SCHOOLS.	Whole No. in School on Jan. 31.	Number promoted to the High School.	No. remaining after Promotions to the High School.	No. in the School after the accession from the L. Schools	Increase of Scholars in each School.	Total increase in these Schools.
High School, ..	71	....	71	125	54	54
Bunker Hill,	139	18	121	142	21	21
„ „ ,	99	....	99*	99	....	....
Warren,..... 1.	165	2	163	193	30	....
„ „ „ 2.	186	6	180	211	31	61
Winthrop, .... 1.	187	5	182	208	26	....
„ „ „ 2	171	4	167	184	17	43
Harvard,..... 1.	182	11	171	188	17	....
„ „ „ 2.	211	4	207	229	22	39
						218

\* As many came into this School from the Primary Schools, as were promoted from it to the upper division of the Bunker Hill School.

It will be seen by the above table, that there are now in the Grammar schools 1454 scholars.

On the 24th of April, 1848, an order passed the Common Council, and subsequently, on the 1st of May, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, appropriating \$2,100 for building recitation rooms for the Warren Schools. On the 8th of May, 1848, it was ordered in the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, in which order the Common Council concurred, that the "moneys appropriated and placed at the disposal of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Instruction, for constructing an addition to the Warren School House, be transferred, and placed at the disposal of the School Committee, for the same purpose."

These improvements were completed under the superintendence of the School Committee, and in conformity to the original plan of the same, embracing also an improvement in the ventilation of the main school rooms, to conform with the mode of ventilating the other Grammar Schools in the city, and all in a thorough and workmanlike manner, for the sum of \$2,075 00, being \$25 00 within the appropriation made for the above purposes.

The amount appropriated by the City Government for the support of the public schools in this city the past year, was as follows, viz:

For the "salary of teachers,"	\$23,955 00	
There has been disbursed from this amount,		
for salaries,	\$23,537 30	
Leaving a balance on this account of	-----	\$417 70
For "contingencies, fuel, small repairs of		
buildings, care of same, &c.,"	\$5,045 00	
There has been expended for the above pur-		
poses, the sum of	\$4,967 27	
Leaving a balance on this account of	-----	\$77 73
Total amount unexpended,		<u>\$495 43</u>

It will be remembered, that previous to the date of the last School Report, the citizens in the western section of the city, towards the Prison, petitioned the School Committee for a new Primary School in that part of the city. This subject was presented to the City Council by your Committee. An appropriation for the salary of an additional teacher for the proposed school, and for another teacher for a new Primary School which was wanted in

the eastern section of Ward 2, was made by the City Government ; but no buildings having yet been furnished for these schools, the amount appropriated for the salaries of the teachers has not been expended.

We give below the statistics of the Primary schools, at the recent examination, showing the whole number, average attendance, &c. for the past term, which closed on the 31st of January, 1849.

No. of School.	Teachers' Names.	Location of Schools.	Whole No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Present at Examination.	Sub-Committee for 1848-9.
1	Caroline Phipps	Near Bunker-Hill School-House	52	39	41	Joseph F. Tufts
2	M. B. Skilton	Mead street	68	52	54	Joseph F. Tufts
3	E. M. Sweetser	Rear of 187 Main street.	76	54	51	Edward Thorndike
4	M. H. Rice	Basement of Warren S. House	83	58	69	Cha's W. Moore
5	M. H. Farnsworth	Elm street, near High street	57	45	38	Cha's W. Moore
6	F. A. Sawyer	Elm street, near Medford street	68	53	55	Edward Thorndike
7	S. L. Sawyer	Main street, rear of 162	70	49	55	H. K. Frothingham
8	E. A. Thorndike	Corner of Cross and Bartlett streets	48	39	47	N. Y. Culbertson
9	S. E. Woodbridge	Corner of Cross and Bartlett streets	58	49	51	N. Y. Culbertson
10	Elizabeth Emes	Common street	56	41	48	James Adams
11	Joanna S. Putnam	Common street	75	50	57	George A. Parker
12	M. E. Pennell	Bow street	54	40	44	George P. Sanger
13	M. E. Lincoln	Bow street	88	65	73	Seth J. Thomas
14	Sarah E. Smith	Bow street	82	59	68	Seth J. Thomas
15	Jane E. Rugg	Bow street	54	41	44	George P. Sanger
16	Abby E. Hinckley	Common street	65	45	50	James Adams
17	E. W. Butts	Bunker-Hill street, at Point	76	38	43	James Miskelly
18	Louise A. Pratt	Bunker-Hill street, at Point	57	48	40	James Miskelly
19	S. E. Sanborn	Moulton street	70	51	55	H. K. Frothingham
20	E. C. Hunting	Winthrop street	69	40	43	James Adams
21	Deborah Norton	Corner of Sullivan and Bartlett sts	60	44	52	Lemuel Gulliver
22	Frances M. Lane	Corner of Sullivan and Bartlett sts	60	50	46	Lemuel Gulliver
23	S. J. Bradbury	Cor. Kingston st. and Medford road	46	33	31	Joseph F. Tufts
24	Ann M. Gregory	Common street	56	42	44	George A. Parker
25	F. A. J. Morse	Ward-room of Ward 2.	108	80	84	Edward Thorndike
			1656	1205	1283	

The above number, 1656, represents those who were members of the Primary Schools at the time the examinations were held, and not the number who have been enrolled in them during the term.

The number in these schools is constantly changing, from various causes, mainly however, in consequence of families moving from one section of the city to another, so that we find on the registers of these schools, the names of 2,106 children who have been members of them during the past term. The average daily attendance in all these schools, it will be seen by the above table, has been 1205, or 48 to each school. This however, is not the usual attendance, as one or two stormy half days in a week, will diminish very considerably the average for that week, and so also for the month or the term;—besides, the average attendance in this class

of our schools, is not as large in the winter as in the summer term.

This class of our schools with but very few exceptions, are found to maintain a rank highly satisfactory to your Committee. and the teachers to be competent, devoted and successful, in the work in which they are engaged.

To conduct these schools properly, and regulate the hours for recreation and study, which must necessarily be changed more frequently than with an older class of children, in order to give variety and interest to the exercises of the school, requires tact and judgment on the part of the teacher.

The cultivation of mild dispositions in early childhood,—of graceful manners—of ready and cheerful obedience, is a no less important part of the teacher's work, than the correction of a sing-song or artificial tone of voice, peculiar to many children; or of imparting intelligibly to her pupils, a correct knowledge of the elements of the English language. In these schools must be laid the foundation of all future educational interests, and therefore, attention should be directed to them, in order that what is done in them may be well and thoroughly done, or else nothing is done to any good purpose.

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### SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

The semi-annual examination of all the Public Schools in the city, which takes place during the last 15 days of January, under the immediate supervision of the sub-committees of the several schools, has just been completed, and all the reports from these committees have been presented; together with the statistics of each school. From these reports, it appears that the Grammar Schools have been subjected to a very patient and thorough examination by the Committees, they having spent in almost every instance, an entire week in the two rooms of each of the Grammar Schools.

This is in addition to the occasional visits by members of the Committee from time to time during the term, at which they listen to recitations from the several classes in the school.



After these examinations were completed, there was an exhibition at each of the Grammar schools, which parents and citizens were generally invited to attend. From the large number of persons who were present to witness the exercises on each of these occasions, and the expressions of approbation so frequently made by them, it does not appear that any argument is required from your Committee in support of our public schools, or that any thing they may be able to say in their behalf, will strengthen the conviction which is believed to prevail so generally among our citizens, that our schools are now in a highly prosperous condition. Your Committee will only add here their own convictions, that whatever may have been the standing of our schools in times past, there has been no period when they have more highly deserved the confidence and support of the community; nor has there at any time been associated with them, a more devoted, efficient, and successful corps of teachers than at the present moment.

### BUNKER-HILL SCHOOL.

THIS school has, during most of the past year, been under the charge of Mr. Benjamin F. Tweed, as principal and Mr. Robert Swan as sub-master. Mr. Tweed, who has been principal of this school for the past ten years, and, as is well known to the parents in this school district and to our citizens generally, eminently successful in his labors, resigned his position in November last;—the loss of such a teacher is regretted by this board and by all who feel an interest in the prosperity of our schools. About the same time, Mr. Swan, who had been filling the office of sub-master in the school for about nine months, “with good success and to the satisfaction of the committee of this school,” resigned his place, leaving two vacancies to be supplied at the same time. This result could not but be regretted, as such changes are always attended with some interruption to the prosperity of a school. These teachers were succeeded by Mr. Philip C. Knapp as principal, and Mr. David Atwood as sub-master, who are now laboring with devotion to promote the best interests of those intrusted to their charge. The female teachers in this school are devoted to their calling, efficient and successful in their labors, and the Committee express themselves “satisfied with the result of the recent examination and exhibition of the school.”

## WARREN SCHOOLS,

### No. 1 AND No. 2.

THESE schools are both in a prosperous condition; and the result of the recent examination has been most gratifying to the friends of these schools. The sub-committee assigned to them, in their report, speak of all the teachers connected with them, as well qualified for their work, and as being ardently engaged in promoting the best interests of the pupils intrusted to their charge.

There is decisive evidence of improvement in the general deportment of the scholars, — of a cheerful compliance on their part with the wishes of their teachers, and a ready cooperation in all that will help to advance the welfare and prosperity of the school.

These schools have for several years been laboring under some disadvantage, from the want of recitation rooms. This want has been supplied during the past year, and each of the two schools in this building, has now two conveniently arranged and well ventilated recitation rooms. The mode of ventilating the main building has been improved, and the accommodations and general arrangements for the scholars in these schools, are as convenient as those at the other Grammar schools in the city.

## WINTHROP SCHOOLS.

### No. 1 AND No. 2.

THESE schools are found to be in good condition. No 1 has been subject to some interruption in consequence of the transfer of Mr. William C. Bradlee to the High School, and the appointment of a new sub-master in place of Mr. L. W. Anderson, who was elected as principal in place of Mr. Bradlee. The result of the examination in these schools, shows a "competency and faithfulness on the part of the teachers, and satisfactory improvement in the scholars." "In both these schools, the importance of thoroughness on the part of the pupils is required as a paramount consideration, and is practically adhered to in all the departments of education embraced in the studies pursued in them."

## HARVARD SCHOOLS.

## No. 1 AND No. 2.

THE examination of these schools by the sub-committee, "was extended to all the studies pursued in each of the classes in them, and the result was entirely satisfactory."

The teachers in these schools, "without exception, are entitled to the confidence of the Committee and of parents." Both schools are now in a very prosperous condition, and may be said to "stand high, but high as they now stand, at the close of another term, under the same teachers, with the same inducements to labor, they will have made a manifest improvement upon their present condition."

## SCHOOL BOOKS.

THE books authorized by the Committee for the use of the scholars in the Grammar schools, are as follows, viz. :

Tower's North American Reader ; Tower's Practical Reader ; Tower's Gradual Reader ; Lynd's First Book in Etymology ; Parker's Exercises in English Composition ; Tower's Grammar ; Tower's Gradual Speller ; Wilson's History of the United States ; Cutter's abridged Physiology ; Morse's Cerographic Geography ; Smith's Primary Geography ; Colburn's First Lessons in Arithmetic ; Frederick Adams's Arithmetic ; Emerson's Third Part Arithmetic ; Tower's Intellectual Algebra ; Crosby's First Lessons in Geometry.

## MUSIC.

J. EDGAR GOULD, Teacher of Music in the High and Grammar schools.

VOCAL music has been taught in the High and Grammar schools by a skilful teacher and with good success. It needs no argument from this Committee to prove that it enlivens the school-room,—is elevating and improving in its influences upon the mind,—is an important and healthful exercise of the lungs ;—that it tends to soften the feelings and subdue passion, and that, by acquiring a taste for, and a knowledge of, this science, we are only cultivating one of the faculties which an all-wise and beneficent Creator has seen fit to bestow upon his children. We hope it may be con-

tinued as a branch of common education, for the healthful influence it exerts upon the discipline of the schools, and for its happy and lasting effects upon the character of the pupils. We recommend the subject to the attention of parents, teachers, and the friends of our public schools.

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It was believed, that, under the present arrangement of the additional force of teachers in our Grammar schools, much would be accomplished by them, and that the scholars would show a marked improvement in the various branches of study pursued in them. In these expectations, your Committee have not been disappointed.

It is true, that the Grammar schools have not numbered as many scholars the past year, as can be accommodated in them ; owing partly to the draught made upon them for the High School, and partly to the increased accommodations furnished by the erection of larger buildings for these schools, than were afforded in the old school houses. In the *four* buildings now occupied by *eight* Grammar schools, there are seats and desks for 1572 scholars. It will be seen, therefore, that with the present compliment of teachers in each school, the average number of scholars to each teacher, when the schools are full, will not be less than 50 ; — a number large enough for any one teacher, however competent and devoted such teacher may be ; if it is expected that full justice will be done to those placed under his charge.

None, we presume, will doubt the necessity of moral in connection with intellectual training,—of establishing good principles and forming good habits ; and to this end, the teacher will take into consideration the character and ability of each scholar, in order that he may, by addressing the reason and the affections of his pupils, overcome any prejudices which may exist in their minds,—secure their regard for him and his authority, and strengthen in each, such a sense of character and self-respect, as will secure a healthy tone of public opinion throughout the school.

A knowledge of individual character, and the keeping of that character constantly in view, is indispensable to the teacher, in order, that by applying the right means in a proper direction, whatever is wrong may be overcome, and whatever is right supported and strengthened ; thus producing results, alike useful to the individual, and the best interests of the school.

Your Committee believe this to have been accomplished in an eminent degree, and that, in addition to the increased attainments of the children in our Grammar schools the past year, the present force of teachers employed in these schools, by the appointment of a sub-master to each of them, has afforded the means of a more uniform and thorough oversight of the scholars, and the internal regulations of the schools, by which means the frequency of cases requiring punishment, has been reduced to a very limited number, and most of these arise from impulsive outbreaks of passion or excitement, in which youth is somewhat prone to indulge, under a mistaken view of what they deem their individual rights or privileges.

We can say, and not without a knowledge of the facts, that there has been no single year of our acquaintance with the schools in this city, when resort to punishments has been so infrequent, or the occasions for them so rare, as during the year which has just closed. Teachers, by pointing their pupils to the right path and warning them against the wrong,—presenting to them the advantages of following the first, and the difficulties which surround the second; have done, and can do, much to exert an influence which is essential to a mild and wholesome discipline in school, and to secure a surrender of individual wishes or will, to the benefit and good order of the whole school.

In discharge of the duties devolving upon your Committee during the past year, they have not been unmindful of the deep responsibility which has attended their trust, and they have endeavoured to keep constantly in view, the best interests of our schools, in every action of theirs which would effect their prosperity or usefulness.

On resigning the charge which has been intrusted to them, your Committee cannot but be impressed with the importance of commending our free schools to the highest consideration of those who may be called to administer to their advancement; that, as the nurseries of a free and intelligent community, they may still secure the admiration of our citizens, and continue to be the bulwarks of safety to the free institutions of our land.

HENRY K. FROTHINGHAM, *Chairman.*

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IN School Committee, Feb. 22, 1849:

*Voted*, That the foregoing Report be accepted by this Board.

*Voted*, That twenty-five hundred copies be printed and distributed to the citizens.

EDWARD THORNDIKE, *Secretary*.

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